



## **Legislative Bulletin.....January 30, 2007**

### **Contents:**

**H.Res. 24** — Establishing the House Democracy Assistance Commission for the One Hundred Tenth Congress

**H.Con.Res. 20** — Calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent, and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Patrick Finucane, as recommended by Judge Peter Cory as part of the Weston Park Agreement, in order to move forward on the Northern Ireland peace process

**H.Res. 59** — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, and for other purposes

**H.Con.Res. 34** — Honoring the life of Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the field of organic chemistry research and development and the first and only African American chemist to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences

**H.Con. Res. 5** — Expressing support for the designation and goals of “Hire a Veteran Wee” and encouraging the President to issue a proclamation supporting those goals

**H.Res. 90** - Congratulating Lovie Smith of the Chicago Bears and Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts on becoming the first African-American head coaches of National Football League teams to qualify for the Super Bowl

### **Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:**

**Total Number of New Government Programs:** 0

**Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations:** \$0

**Effect on Revenue:** \$0

**Total Change in Mandatory Spending:** \$0

**Total New State & Local Government Mandates:** 0

**Total New Private Sector Mandates:** 0

**Number of Bills Without Committee Reports:** 0

**Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority:** 0

**H.Res. 24 — Establishing the House Democracy Assistance Commission for the One Hundred Tenth Congress (*Price, D-NC*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

An almost identical resolution, H.Res. 135, passed the House during the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress by a vote of 386-2 on March 14, 2005: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2005/roll066.xml>.

**Summary:** H.Res. 24 would establish in the House of Representatives a House Democracy Assistance Commission to:

- enable Members, officers, and staff of the House of Representatives and congressional support agencies to provide expert advice to Members and staff of the parliaments of selected countries;
- enable Members and staff of parliaments of selected countries to visit the House of Representatives and its support agencies to learn about their operations first-hand; and
- provide recommendations to the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development regarding the provision of material assistance, such as modern automation and office systems, information technology, and library supplies, that the Commission determines is needed by the parliament of a selected country in order to improve the efficiency and transparency of its work, and to oversee the provision of such assistance.

The Commission would be composed of Members of the House of Representatives, the number of whom shall be determined by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives. The Speaker would appoint majority Members to the commission, and the Minority Leader would appoint minority Members.

The Commission would have to conduct on an annual basis (or more frequently if necessary) a study on the feasibility of programs of assistance for parliaments of countries (as determined by the Commission) that have established or are developing democratic parliaments, for the purpose of strengthening the parliamentary infrastructure of such countries.

The Commission would report annually to the appropriate entities of Congress plus the United States Agency for International Development.

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 24 was introduced on January 4, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The Commission would use the existing resources of the House International Relations Committee.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Derek V. Baker; [derek.baker@mail.house.gov](mailto:derek.baker@mail.house.gov); 202-226-8585

---

**H.Con.Res. 20 — Calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent, and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Patrick Finucane, as recommended by Judge Peter Cory as part of the Weston Park Agreement, in order to move forward on the Northern Ireland peace process (Smith, R-NJ)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

A similar resolution, H.Res. 740, passed the House during the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress by a vote of 390-5 on May 18, 2006: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2006/roll159.xml>.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 20 would resolve that Congress:

- 1) “expresses to the family of Patrick Finucane deepest condolences on his death, commends their steadfast pursuit of justice in his brutal murder, and thanks his wife Geraldine and son Michael for their willingness to testify on this matter before committees of the House of Representatives on numerous occasions;
- 2) “supports the efforts of the Administration in seeking the full implementation of the Weston Park Agreement and the establishment of a full, independent, and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane;
- 3) “calls on the Government of the United Kingdom to reconsider its position on the matter of an inquiry into the murder of Mr. Finucane, to amend the Inquiries Act of 2005, and to take fully into account the objections of Judge Cory, objections raised by officials of the United States Government, other governments, and international bodies, and the objections raised by Mr. Finucane’s family; and
- 4) “urges the Government of the United Kingdom immediately to establish a full, independent, and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane which would enjoy the full cooperation and support of his family, the people of Northern Ireland, and the international community as recommended by Judge Cory.”

The resolution also states a number of findings, including the following:

- “human rights defense attorney and solicitor Patrick Finucane was brutally murdered in front of his wife and children at his home in Belfast on February 12, 1989;
- “many international bodies and nongovernmental human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, British Irish Rights Watch, the Committee for the Administration of Justice, and Human Rights First, have called attention to serious allegations of collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and British security forces in the murder of Mr. Finucane;
- “in July 2001 the Governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom under terms of the Weston Park Agreement appointed retired Canadian Judge Peter Cory to investigate the allegations of collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and British security forces in the murder of Mr. Finucane and other individuals;
- “Judge Cory reported to the Governments of Ireland and the United Kingdom in April 2004 that sufficient evidence of collusion existed to warrant a full, independent, and

public judicial inquiry into the murder of Mr. Finucane and recommended that a public inquiry take place without delay;

- “the Government of the United Kingdom in April 2005 adopted the Inquiries Act 2005 which empowers the Government to block scrutiny of state actions and limits independent action by the judiciary in inquiries held under its terms, and, after the enactment of this legislation establishing new limited inquiry procedures, the Government announced that an inquiry into the murder of Mr. Finucane would be established which would operate under terms of the new legislation;
- “Judge Cory, in a written statement presented to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives in 2005, stated that his 2004 recommendation for a public inquiry into the murder of Mr. Finucane had ‘contemplated a true public inquiry constituted and acting pursuant to the provisions of the 1921 Act’ (the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921), and also stated that ‘it seems to me that the proposed new Act would make a meaningful inquiry impossible’;
- “the family of Mr. Finucane has rejected the limited authority of an inquiry conducted under terms of the Inquiries Act of 2005;
- “Amnesty International, British Irish Rights Watch, the Committee for the Administration of Justice, and Human Rights First have likewise rejected any proposed inquiry into the murder of Mr. Finucane established under procedures of the Inquiries Act of 2005 and have called for the repeal of the Act;
- “the Dáil Éireann (Parliament of Ireland) adopted a resolution on March 8, 2006, calling for the establishment of a full, independent, and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane; and
- “the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-228) and House Resolution 128 (April 20, 1999) support the establishment of a full, independent, and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 20 was introduced on January 9, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Derek V. Baker; [derek.baker@mail.house.gov](mailto:derek.baker@mail.house.gov); 202-226-8585

---

## **H.Res. 59 — Supporting the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week, and for other purposes (*Lipinski, D-IL*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 59 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “supports the goals and ideals of National Engineers Week and its aims to increase understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers and to promote literacy in math and science; and
- “will work with the engineering community **to make sure that the creativity and contribution of that community can be expressed through research, development, standardization, and innovation**” (emphasis added).

The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “engineers use their professional, scientific, and technical knowledge and skills in creative and innovative ways to fulfill society’s needs;
- “engineers have helped meet the major technological challenges of our time--from rebuilding towns devastated by natural disasters to designing an information superhighway that will speed our country into the future;
- “engineers play a crucial role in developing the consensus engineering standards that permit modern economies and societies to exist;
- “the 2006 National Academy of Sciences report entitled ‘Rising Above the Gathering Storm’ highlighted the worrisome trend that fewer students are now focusing on engineering in college at a time when increasing numbers of today’s 2,000,000 United States engineers are nearing retirement;
- “the National Society of Professional Engineers through National Engineers Week and other activities is raising public awareness of engineers’ significant, positive contributions to societal needs; and
- “February 18 to 24, 2007, has been designated by the President as National Engineers Week.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 59 was introduced on January 12, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, which considered it, held a mark-up, and reported the bill to the House on January 24, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure. However, the resolution does resolve that the House of Representatives will “work with the engineering community” to ensure that engineers can express their creativity “through research, development, standardization, and innovation.” It is unclear what exactly the phrase “work with” entails, but it is likely that this will take the form of federal funding.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Joelle Cannon; [joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov](mailto:joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-0718.

---

**H.Con.Res. 34 — Honoring the life of Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the field of organic chemistry research and development and the first and only African American chemist to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences (*Johnson, D-TX*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 34 would resolve that the Congress, “honors the life of Percy Lavon Julian, a pioneer in the field of organic chemistry research and development and the first and only African American chemist to be inducted into the National Academy of Sciences.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “Percy Julian was born on April 11, 1899, in Montgomery, Alabama, the son of a railway clerk and the first member of his family to attend college, graduating from DePauw University in 1920, receiving a M.S. degree from Harvard University in 1923 and a Ph.D. from the University of Vienna in 1931;
- “in 1935 Dr. Julian became the first to discover a process to synthesize physostigmine, the drug used in the treatment of glaucoma;
- “Dr. Julian was the first African American chemist elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1973 for his lifetime of scientific accomplishments, held over 130 patents at the time of his death in 1975, and dedicated much of his life to the advancement of African Americans in the sciences; and
- “Dr. Julian’s life story has been documented in the PBS NOVA film ‘Forgotten Genius’.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 34 was introduced in the House on January 18, 2007, and referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology, which held a mark-up and reported the bill to the House on January 24, 2007.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Joelle Cannon; [joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov](mailto:joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-0718.

---

**H.Con.Res. 5 — Expressing support for the designation and goals of “Hire a Veteran Week” and encouraging the President to issue a proclamation supporting those goals (*Holt, D-NJ*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 5 would resolve that the Congress:

- “recognizes the importance of the men and women who have served or who currently serve in the Armed Forces of the United States;
- “supports the designation of an appropriate week as ‘Hire a Veteran Week’; and
- “encourages the President to issue a proclamation calling upon employers, labor organizations, veterans service organizations, and Federal, State, and local governmental agencies (including such agencies in the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any other territory or possession of the United States) to lend their support to increase employment of the men and women who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings, including the following:

- “the people of the United States have a sincere appreciation and respect for the military personnel who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States;
- “veterans possess special qualities and skills that make them ideal candidates for employment, but many veterans encounter difficulties in securing employment;
- “it would be inconsistent, inconsiderate, and contrary to the economic competitiveness of the United States to neglect the post-military needs of the military personnel who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States;
- “many of the brave men and women who have served the United States so gallantly and selflessly in the war on terrorism and the war in Iraq since September 11, 2001, are beginning to return home to be reunited with their loved ones and will be re-entering the workforce or searching for their first jobs outside of military service; and
- “the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Labor, the Office of Personnel Management, and many State and local governments administer veterans programs and have veterans employment representatives both to ensure that veterans receive the services to which they are entitled and to promote employer interest in hiring veterans.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 5 was introduced in the House on January 18, 2007, and referred to the House Committees on Veterans’ Affairs and Armed Services, neither of which took any official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Joelle Cannon; [joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov](mailto:joelle.cannon@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-0718.

---



**H.Res. 90 — Congratulating Lovie Smith of the Chicago Bears and Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts on becoming the first African-American head coaches of National Football League teams to qualify for the Super Bowl**  
**(Kilpatrick, D-MI)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, January 30, 2007, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 90 would resolve that the House of Representative congratulates Lovie Smith of the Chicago Bears and Tony Dungy of the Indianapolis Colts for their accomplishments and for being the first African-American head coaches of National Football League teams to qualify for the Super Bowl.

The resolution also includes a number of findings, including the following:

- “in the 40 Super Bowls prior to Super Bowl XLI, to be held on February 4, 2007, no National Football League (NFL) team that played in the Super Bowl had an African-American head coach;
- “on January 21, 2007, in Chicago, Illinois, the Chicago Bears, coached by Lovie Smith--an African-American--defeated the New Orleans Saints by a score of 39 to 14 in the National Football Conference Championship game and advanced to Super Bowl XLI; on January 21, 2007, in Indianapolis, Indiana, the Indianapolis Colts, coached by Tony Dungy--an African-American--defeated the New England Patriots by a score of 38 to 34 in the American Football Conference’s Championship game and also advanced to Super Bowl XLI;
- “the NFL had a record 7 African-American head coaches in 2006 and a record of 197 African-American coaches total, including 7 assistant head coaches; and
- “since Frederick Douglass ‘Fritz’ Pollard became the first African-American head coach in the NFL in 1922, there have been nine other African-American head coaches in the NFL--including five who are currently serving.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 90 was introduced on January 23, 2007, and referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution authorizes no expenditure.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Derek V. Baker; [derek.baker@mail.house.gov](mailto:derek.baker@mail.house.gov); 202-226-8585

---

---

###